MINUTES

**Meeting of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
Board of Directors**

August 12, 2025, AT 10:00 A.M.

**10 Park Plaza, 2nd Floor Board Room, Suite 2890
Boston, MA 02116**

Public participation and comment occurred via written communication, voice message and in-person public comment.

This meeting was broadcast virtually.

BOARD MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN-PERSON:	Chair Tom McGee, Director Robert Butler, Director Peter Koutoujian, Director Charlie Sisitsky, Secretary Monica Tibbits-Nutt
BOARD MEMBERS PARTICIPATING REMOTELY:	Director Eric Goodwine, Director Thomas Koch, Director Chanda Smart
BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:	Director Mary Skelton Roberts
Others Presenting and/or Participating for Various Portions of the Meeting:	Deputy Chief of Staff Darrin McAuliffe, General Manager Phillip Eng, Chief Operating Officer Ryan Coholan, Chief of Safety Management Lauren Bradford, Director of SMS and Safety Oversight Michael Catsos, Senior Advisor Rod Brooks, Chief Enterprise Development Officer Erika Mazza
Others Present:	Chief Counsel John Martin, Counsel- Corporate Governance Noah Potash

1. Safety Briefing

Deputy Chief of Staff Darrin McAuliffe provided a safety briefing, pointing out the boardroom's safety features and exit routes and discussing school bus safety.

OPEN OF MEETING/Call to order by the Chair

Chair Tom McGee called the meeting of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority ("MBTA") Board to order at 10:00 a.m. Noah Potash called the roll of the MBTA Board of Directors participating, being a quorum of the MBTA Board:

Chair McGee	**Present**
Director Butler	**Present**
Director Goodwine	**Present**
Director Koch	**Present**
Director Koutoujian	**Present**
Director Sisitsky	**Present**
Director Smart	**Present**
Director Tibbits-Nutt	**Present**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

2. To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property

Chair McGee said that the next item on the agenda was an executive session to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property. He added that he had determined that an open meeting could have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the MBTA. The Chair noted that the Board would return to open session following the discussion.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

VOTED:

To enter executive session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation and to investigate charges of criminal misconduct or to consider the filing of criminal complaints.

Chair McGee	**Yes**
Director Butler	**Yes**
Director Goodwine	**Yes**
Director Koch	**Yes**
Director Koutoujian	**Yes**
Director Sisitsky	**Yes**
Director Smart	**Yes**
Director Tibbits-Nutt	**Yes**

Note: The Board deliberated in executive session from 10:02 a.m. to 10:22 a.m.

OPEN SESSION/REPORTS, PRESENTATIONS & ACTION ITEMS

3. Consent Agenda

Chair McGee explained that a vote to adopt the consent agenda would approve the July meeting minutes and approve the acquisition of 440 Riverside Avenue in Medford.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

VOTED:

To adopt the consent agenda.

Chair McGee	**Yes**
Director Butler	**Yes**
Director Goodwine	**Yes**
Director Koch	**Yes**
Director Koutoujian	**Yes**
Director Sisitsky	**Yes**
Director Smart	**Yes**
Director Tibbits-Nutt	**Yes**

Public Comment Period

Note: The following public comments were submitted via voicemail or email. Summaries were read into the record by Board Counsel.

Stephen and Constance Ringlee of Jamaica Plain urged the MBTA to re-start work on Phase III of the Multi-use path beneath Park Drive, noting that the project would provide safer pedestrian access to Fenway, an alternative route for pedestrians and cyclists to avoid traffic, a better exit from Fenway and Lansdowne, and maintain the MBTA's ability to use the rail spur for maintenance. They also requested a meeting between MBTA leadership and local interest groups to discuss the issue.

John Eustace Gerard commented on the unaffordability of the MBTA and criticized communication regarding emergencies. He urged leadership to ride the trains and suggested that the contract with Keolis should be terminated. Mr. Gerard also

commented on the contactless payment system, stating that employees should open all doors to passengers.

Gran Gran reported issues with unsheltered groups taking up space at the Washington/East Berkeley Street SL4/SL5 stop. The commenter expressed frustration with a lack of response from the Transit Police to complaints and requests for help. The commenter expressed frustration with the responses by BPD and the CRT team and stated that individuals should not be using MBTA stations unless they are using MBTA services.

Max Donagan suggested scheduling trains to Foxboro station for events beyond Patriots games and concerts, specifically for games by the New England Revolution and the new women's soccer team. He noted that most of these games are on weekends, when there is no regular service to Foxboro.

Alan Wright commented on behalf of Rozzie Bikes to request the building of the Park Drive underpass to expedite the passage to and from the Fenway stop and enable a pedestrian/cyclist connection between the Riverway and the Fenway. He commented on the dangerousness and congestion of the existing crossing and noted that the development plans for the underpass are complete.

Sebastian Luu of the T Riders Union commented on Battery-Electric Buses, stating that he is concerned about fire risks, citing a recent example from SEPTA. He noted that several BEB companies have gone bankrupt and expressed concerns with BEB reliability given the increased tourist traffic that the area will experience during the 2026 World Cup.

4. General Manager's Report

General Manager Phillip Eng began his report by discussing the administration's support for reliable service. He announced that speeds on the Orange Line would be increased to 55mph starting August 24th. Mr. Eng discussed the addition of the *Millenium* to the ferry service and discussed the importance of ferry service. Turning to the 2025 Fall Schedule, the General Manager discussed how support for hiring and infrastructure upgrades have allowed the MBTA to make improvements to heavy rail service over the past two years, including increased trips and reduced headways. He announced that extended service would start on August 24th, including later subway service on Fridays and Saturdays, later bus service daily on selected bus routes, and later ferry service on Fridays and Saturdays. Chief Operating Officer Ryan Coholan provided details of extended service, noting that service would be available nearly an hour later on heavy rail, and would be extended every night on bus routes 23, 28, 57, 111, and 116. He added that later Friday and Saturday service would be offered on routes 1, 22, 39, 66, 110, SL1, SL3, and SL5, along with later Friday service on the Hingham/Hull ferry and later Friday and Saturday service on the Charlestown and East Boston ferry. Mr. Coholan noted that there would be no impact to the operating budget thanks to other cost savings and discussed how the routes were selected to maximize impact and target transit connections.

Director Koutoujian asked about consideration of evening workers. Mr. Coholan discussed how extended service was designed to be impactful for workers. He then discussed upgrades to 8 key bus routes, working to increase transit network and community connectivity, while responding to rider feedback. He discussed service to the Hingham Ferry, Houghton Pond, the use of the Congress Street bus lane and the

resumption of bus route 90 service via Cross Street in Somerville. He said that all ferry routes would offer 7-day service through mid-October, with others extending into November and a few offered year-round. To promote the extended service hours, the General Manager announced that free fares would be offered for five Fridays and Saturdays after 9 p.m. starting on September 5th. He discussed the recent openings of the East Somerville pedestrian walkway and the rebuilt, fully accessible Natick Center Station. Mr. Eng addressed the role of public transit in the 2026 FIFA World Cup and said that work on the Foxboro Station platform had started on August 11th with no impact on event service.

Director Koutoujian discussed the importance of the Natick Station and transit to the community, especially disability advocates and the business community, noting that people chose homes in the area because of the transportation options. He asked about the plan for informing the public about extended service and Mr. Eng discussed work by the Customer and Employee Experience team to expand public awareness and highlighted the five weekends of free fares. He also commented on the importance of Natick Center Station to development in the area. Chair McGee said that the investment brings economic value to the region and commented positively on the improvements to ferry service.

5. Safety Program Update/Transit Safety Plan

Chief of Safety Management Lauren Bradford introduced Director of SMS and Safety Oversight Michael Catsos as the subject matter expert on the Transit Safety Plan. Mr. Catsos noted that the plan is a federal requirement that must be updated annually and relates to passenger rail, bus, and paratransit. Mr. Catsos discussed the

contents of the plan, beginning with safety policy, explaining that the plan includes an updated policy statement and safety performance targets. He said that the plan's safety risk management component included hazard identification, risk assessment framework, and a risk mitigation process. Mr. Catsos then discussed the safety assurance elements, including event investigations, data collection, and audits and inspections. He then reviewed safety promotion, which includes training requirements and safety communication.

Director Koutoujian asked about the safety performance targets and new targets. Mr. Catsos said that in addition to the existing targets for fatalities, injuries, safety events, and mean miles between mechanical failures, the plan was also tracking collisions, and transit worker injuries and assaults. Mr. Koutoujian noted that reported data may not align with MBTA culpability and asked if there was an internal distinction. Mr. Catsos said that background analysis did take this into account. Director Koutoujian asked about the hotline and other reporting mechanisms and Mr. Catsos said that while the MBTA collects and aggregates data on hazards from multiple sources, the hotline accounts for the overwhelming majority of reports. Director Koutoujian noted that higher totals could reflect improved reporting instead of a higher volume of problems. He asked about the higher numbers of employee assaults and Mr. Catsos said that these were driven by changes in the NTSB definition that now include any verbal confrontation that impedes an employee's work. Director Koutoujian and Mr. Catsos discussed how the performance targets are calculated. Director Smart asked how the data is used to change the safety culture. The General Manager said that the culture change is happening in parallel with data as one component. He noted the MBTA's work to

engage with frontline employees and to promote safety as the top priority. He discussed the work of the employee engagement team and holding people accountable.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

VOTED:

As required by 49 CFR § 673.11 (a)(1), the MBTA Board of Directors hereby approves the 2026 Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Transit Safety Plan, presented to the Board on August 12, 2025.

Chair McGee	**Yes**
Director Butler	**Yes**
Director Goodwine	**Yes**
Director Koch	**Yes**
Director Koutoujian	**Yes**
Director Sisitsky	**Yes**
Director Smart	**Yes**
Director Tibbits-Nutt	**Yes**

6. 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup

Chief Enterprise Development Officer Erika Mazza discussed preparation for the hosting of FIFA World Cup matches and related events in 2026, explaining that the MBTA had committed to transporting 20,000 passengers on the commuter rail and noted that 6 of the 7 matches are expected to be on weekdays, with widely ranging game times. She discussed regional coordination and work with other host cities and shared calendars for the events in June and July 2026, noting overlap with Harborfest and the Tall Ships. Ms. Mazza discussed the MBTA's importance to the region and said that Foxboro was one of two host cities with commuter rail access. She noted the projected economic benefits to the region and broad bipartisan support for federal funding. Senior Advisor Rod Brooks discussed the advertising takeover at South Station and Airport Station and discussed MBTA efforts on security, budgeting, and special event tickets. He reviewed the planned renovations to Foxboro station,

noting that it was fully funded and would be a legacy benefit to the system. Mr. Brooks reviewed the timeline, stating that team pairings and match times would be announced in December.

Chair McGee discussed the opportunities that the World Cup will provide for the MBTA. Director Butler asked about the involvement of the Kraft Group and Ms. Mazza discussed FIFA's plan to take over Gillette Stadium and the MBTA's conversations with the Kraft Group about supporting transportation. Director Butler asked about funding for the station and the General Manager said that the Kraft Group had paid for the design and that discussions about construction costs were ongoing. Director Koutoujian asked about the FIFA fan festival and Ms. Mazza explained that for the duration of the World Cup, FIFA would be providing sites for fans to watch matches in downtown Boston and hosting skill games, along with some events in Foxboro. Director Koutoujian asked if City Hall Plaza would be used and Ms. Mazza said that there is an application for that location and possible road closures. The General Manager noted that while the MBTA will not have final say on these events, they are involved in ongoing discussions. Director Koutoujian asked about the security effort for the event and Mr. Brooks discussed coordination with the Department of Homeland Security and MassDOT. Director Koutoujian asked who the convener was and about coordination with police and the Transit Police. Secretary Tibbits-Nutt said that MassDOT would be running security for transportation and had been working on the event in coordination with the police and Homeland Security since 2023. Director Koutoujian noted that the security will go beyond transportation. Secretary Tibbits-Nutt said that MassDOT staff could provide a full briefing. The General Manager said

that Transit Police were engaged and coordinating with all host cities, expecting transit-oriented fans, celebratory moods, and national pride. Director Koutoujian discussed the need to be mindful of the unique nature of each game. Mr. Eng said that the MBTA was taking lessons from other global events and noted that the economic benefit is projected at over $1 billion. Chair McGee discussed the history of coordination and welcomed a future presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items on the agenda, Chair McGee asked for a motion to adjourn.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

VOTED:

To adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Chair McGee	**Yes**
Director Butler	**Yes**
Director Goodwine	**Yes**
Director Koch	**Yes**
Director Koutoujian	**Yes**
Director Sisitsky	**Yes**
Director Smart	**Yes**
Director Tibbits-Nutt	**Yes**

Documents relied upon for this meeting:

- August 12, 2025 Agenda
- Minutes of July 24, 2025 Board Meeting
- 1. MBTA August Safety Briefing
- 3. QCO Update August Board 2025
- 3i. Safety Division Board Report August 2025_2025_07_24 Final
- 3ia. Fall 2025 Service Memo
- 3ii. 440 Riverside -Open Session 7.23.25 V1
- 4. GM Report to the Board 08.12.2025 - 2
- 5. Safety Board of Director August 2025_FINAL
- 5a. 2026 Transit Safety Plan - Key Revisions
- 5b. MBTA 2026 Transit Safety Plan - Redlined Draft
- 5c. 2026 Transit Safety Plan - Final Signed
- 6. FIFA Mens World Cup Briefing - MBTA August Board (08-12-2025)